The Youth of Judge Black.

Jerry Black, as he was familiarly known even at an early age, did not have the best educational opportunities obtainable even in those primitive times. He received his first mind-training in the schools about his own home, but he completed his studies in a private academy in Fayette County. He laid, however, in school-houses, only a meager foundation for the great store of knowledge he has accumulated. He studied the classics and read great authors by the flickering light of the evening fire or in the gray of the morning, and then spent the hours of toil recalling and repeating what he had read. During the eighteen months which he spent upon the farm after leaving school, and prior to beginning the study of law, he translated into English verse nearly all the classics. His marvelous power for retaining what he read was thus early gained. From the day he left school he applied himself more assiduously to the accumulation of practical knowledge than while under a teacher's direction, and even when honors were highest and great duties thickest he always gave a few hours each day to reading current literature. He is, therefore, a greater master of information he can use and make useful to others than almost any other man in America.

His early life at school and on the farm was full of hardships. His aggressive nature and the difference between his tastes and ambitions and those of the boys with whom he was surrounded often brought him conflicts, and the severe battle of life began early and has never ceased. His form and features seem to have been molded to express only the great force of his nature, and therefore both his mind and body were almost a constant menace to his associates. A good story is told of him, which nicely illustrates this fact.

When about fourteen years old he was attending school at Somerset during the winter. He boarded at the country hotel kept by Captain Webster, a Revolutionary soldier, and then, consequently, a man of great importance. His wife took a great fancy to, and consequently a solid motherly interest in the boy. Sitting together one winter's evening, she was knitting industriously and Black was studying his lessons upon the opposite side of the spacious fireplace. He finally looked up from his book to find that she had stopped knitting and was gazing at him intently, with an earnest look of inquiry upon her countenance. Both looked each other square in the face for a moment, when she drew the needle from her work, and thrusting it back again with a sort of dissatisfied air, said rather regretfully:

"Jerry, you may some day be a very good and a very smart man. I hope you will. But, bless my soul, boy, you will never be handsome."

The good, honest housewife's predictions were verified, for good looks have never been counted as one of Judge Black's attractions. The ungainly boy, in whose face the landlady tried to find one handsome line, grew to be a man of powerful frame, but neither form nor feature gave a relenting sign of attractiveness. His personal appearance advertised his intellectual and physical force only.

The good people among whom he was reared, who looked upon books and learning as a luxury, and patient, contented industry as the greatest of virtues, did not regard young Black's thirst for knowledge with favor. They thought he spent time over his books that had better be spent at toil. His boyhood companions echoed the talk of the elder folks about his aspirations, and one incident which he often tells serves to show the drift of thought about Jerry Black and his future in the place where he was reared.

He was one day riding along the country road, toward a neighbor's house, with a companion a year or more older than himself. He had just returned from the winter's school at Somerset, and was in the coming fall to realize his heart's desire—to be sent away to an institution where there were greater opportunities for learning the higher branches of an English education than about home.

"I am going away to school for two years," said young Black to his companion, as they rode along. The boy looked at him in astonishment, for he had always held the speaker to be a prodigy, and was wont to say, when the country lads asked information about anything:

"Ask Jerry Black; he knows everything."

"Why, ain't you learnt through yet?" he inquired when he recovered from his astonishment that Black was going to waste more time over books.

"Why no, I've hardly begun," was the reply.

The boy cast a sort of half-pitying glance at Black and said: "Jerry, if you don't stop this book nonsense soon you'll be a lawyer yet."—*Philadelphia Press.*

How is This?

Liquor drinking is a common pastime with Democrats. All Democrats drink, and most Democrats drink a great deal. Nine-tenths of the liquor made in the United States finds its way down Democratic throats, and nine-tenths of the revenue on spirits paid into the Treasury comes out of Democratic pockets. Republicans do not drink liquor. The fire, frenzy and concentrated wickedness in the article are antagonistic to the exalted serenity and morality of these exemplary persons, and, therefore, they abhor it. Republicans never drink anything more iniquitous than pop and root beer. Hence the communities that turn out steady and unvarying Republican majorities are noted for their sobriety, high morality, decorousness and general exemption from the vices and ills that afflict peoples whose indulgences are not limited to ice-water and pop.

These are axioms. No one dares dispute them. They are printed in big letters in the American primer.

Still, there are some things that puzzle us. Kansas is a Republican teetotal State. Not a drop of liquor is drunk in Kansas from one year to another. And yet the statistics of the Internal Revenue bureau for last year return 1,132 licensed saloons for the sale of spirits in Kansas—a greater number than is returned for South Carolina, which is Democratic, and wholly given up to liquor drinking. There is one dram-shop in Kansas to every 897 persons; in South Carolina, one to every 910 persons. Then there is the Republican and teetotal State of Maine, where, too, the people have had no knowledge of the taste, smell and color of liquor for ten years; yet the official report credits Maine with one saloon to every 791 inhabitants. Then there is Massachusetts, which has one saloon for every 245 inhabitants, while Arkansas has only one for every 558 inhabitants. Rhode Island has twice as many in proportion to population as Georgia—the figures being, in Massachusetts, one saloon to every 296 souls, and in Georgia one to every 612. One saloon to every 438 souls suffices in Kentucky, but Ohio requires one to every 223 souls.

Of course there must be something wrong in these figures, since they conflict with the axioms of the Republican primer. The Commissioner of Internal Revenue ought to be called to account for his temerity in permitting such an insufferably defamatory document to get out of his office.—*St. Louis Republican.*

Reducing Dropsical Pretensions.

It will doubtless be conceded by those who have placed the highest estimates upon Garfield's character that nothing could have been more unfortunate than to publish a private letter, written by Garfield at a time when he was chief of General Rosecrans' staff to Governor Chase, of Ohio. The publication of the letter in question was doubtless owing to the fact that Blaine, in his memorial eulogy, sought to confer upon Garfield military renown based upon nothing more substantial than fiction, and to prop up this airy fabric Garfield's letter is brought forward. Unfortunately for Garfield and his friends, Rosecrans is still living to reply, and to rescue his military reputation from such stigmas as duplicity and falsehood sought to fix upon it. Rosecrans, in his reply to the allegations made by Garfield, exhibits an indignation which all true men will indorse. He charges Garfield with falsehood and exaggeration, with treachery and ingratitude, for which, if the Commanding General had had information, Garfield would have been promptly court-martialed and dismissed in disgrace. The affair, in the light of truth, surrounds the character of Garfield with anything but a halo of glory, and thoughtful men will not fail to analyze the facts. This done, and it will be seen that General Rosecrans had for his Chief-of-Staff a man who, while professing friendship, was nothing better than a stealthy enemy. Having ingratiated himself fully into the Commanding General's confidence this Chief-of-Staff used his position and opportunities to assassinate a reputation gained amidst the fire and smoke of battles—an exhibition of deceit, of mean mendacity without a parallel. General Rosecrans says of Garfield's statements, that they are "a mixture of untruths and misrepresentation," and do "discredit to the memory of a dead man," and adds: "I had no idea at the time that I was harboring a person capable of such falseness and double dealing or there would have been a court-martial at once. I did not look for such an exhibition of General Garfield's character as this, and I am sorry that the letter ever saw the light. But it should never have been written, for, as I have said, it is a compound of untruths and exaggerations." Fortunately for General Rosecrans he is now in a position to set himself right, and to characterize "untruths and exaggerations" as they deserve. It is thus that the mills of the gods reduce dropsical pretensions, mendacious fame and all that goes to make hypocrsiy successful, to dimensions of infinite contempt and abhorrence.—*Indiana State Sentinel.*

South Carolina Democrats.

The State Democratic Executive Committee has issued an address to the Democratic party of South Carolina. The address declares that "Despite the peace and quiet which have prevailed, despite the existence of a State Government ready to punish disorder, repress crime, and protect its citizens, Federal officers have seen fit to drag our people from their homes, and arraign them not only before Federal Courts, but before the bar of public opinion. The recent letter of Attorney-General Brewster to Sanders is an indictment of the Democratic party of South Carolina. To this the Democratic party must answer. Its chosen representatives, through whose persons it is sought to perpetrate this outrage, must be defended with all the force and energy of the Democratic party. The purpose in view is too plain to be misunderstood. When the hand of the assassin struck down the President of the United States it dealt a blow under which the people of the South are still staggering. The change of policy toward the South, as unmistakably indicated within the last few weeks, should warn all lovers of good government to be vigilant and active. The decree has gone forth. The white people of South Carolina must avow the principles of the Republican party or be declared criminals. The object of those in authority is not to punish for alleged crimes in the past, but to make adherence to the principles of the Democratic party impossible in the future. The time for this action has been fitly chosen. On the eve of the State election our people are told that they must submit to radical rule or bear the persecution of officials aided by all the power of the General Government. The time has come for an indignant people to rise in their might and protest against this unwarrantable invasion of rights. If we fail in our duty, our civilization will be lost. The foe and the stranger will again rule South Carolina. The oppression and tyranny which marked the history of Republican rule in this State will again disgrace our civilization, and bring disaster upon our people. In this situation of affairs no true son of the State can doubt as to his duty. Let us stand together as one man, and, while confronting the common enemy, preserve for ourselves and posterity the justice, peace and security which, under Democratic rule, all classes of our citizens have enjoyed since the grand revolution of 1776. They, whose only offense is fidelity to the welfare of the State, must not be permitted to suffer as criminals."

—The St. Louis Grand Jury recommends that saloons be limited to one in each block.

FOREIGN GOSSIP.

—A paper watch has been exhibited in Dresden.

—The Prince and Princess of Wales recently celebrated the nineteenth anniversary of their wedding day.

—Monaco, whose 10,000 inhabitants live entirely on the profits of the gaming tables, has 164 priests to look after its spiritual welfare.

—A single day's fogs recently brought into the treasury of one London gas company nearly $60,000, the price of 75,000,000 feet of gas.

—Russia has 24,746 nobles with an average of $17,000 per annum; 123,000 merchants with a yearly income of $1,500 each; and 16,254,000 peasants with an annual average of $180.

—A letter from Queen Victoria, written after one of the earlier attempts upon her life, has been revived. In it she declares that these outrages will be continued so long as the assailants are indicted for high treason. The importance thus given them insures renewed attempts.

—A widow in Japan who is willing to think of matrimony wears her hair tied and twisted around a long shell hairpin placed horizontally across the back of her head. But when a widow firmly resolves never to change her name again she cuts her hair short on her neck and combs it back without any part.

—A gentleman possessing immense wealth died the other day at St. Petersburg, and bequeathed the whole of his fortune to Philippopolis, the chief town of Eastern Roumelia, where he was born. The money is to be applied to the foundation of public institutions of general interest, there being at present nothing of the kind in Eastern Roumelia.

—The Eton boy who, in his indignation at the dastardly attack on her Majesty at Windsor, administered personal chastisement to the miscreant on the spot with his umbrella, is Gordon Wilson, the eldest son of the present occupant of Hughenden Manor. "An eye-witness" asserts that it was the Eton boys who diverted the villain's aim and caused the ball to strike the ground instead of her Majesty.

—Two young fellows in Warsaw quarreled recently, and to preserve their honor it was arranged that they should play a set of three games of dominoes, upon the solemn understanding that the loser should swallow a dose of the deadliest poison procurable. The compact was carried out. The game was played in a cafe, in presence of seconds. The younger of the two fellows, a lad of sixteen named Stanilaus Julian, was the loser. He lifted the glass containing the poison to his lips, and drank off its contents at a draught. Five minutes later he was a corpse.

The Queen's Household.

The Clerk of the Kitchen has a salary of £700 a year and his board, and to aid him in his work he has four clerks, who keep all the accounts, check weights and measures, and issue orders to the tradespeople; he has also a messenger and a "necessary woman." Beside these officials of her Majesty's kitchen, there is the *chef*, with a salary of £700 a year, and four master cooks at about £350 per annum each—who have the privilege of taking four apprentices at premiums of £150 to £200 each—two yeomen of the kitchen, two assistant cooks, two roasting cooks, four scourers, three kitchen-maids, a storekeeper, two "Green Office" men, and two steam apparatus men. And in the confectionery department there are a first and a second yeoman, with salaries of £300 and £250, respectively; an apprentice, three female assistants, and an errand man; and, in addition to these, there are also a pastry cook and two female assistants, a baker and his assistant, and three coffee-room women. The ewer department, which has charge of all the linen, consists of a yeoman and two female assistants only. The gentleman of the wine and beer cellars—or, properly speaking, her Majesty's chief butler—has a salary of £500 a year. He has to select and purchase wines for the royal establishment, to superintend the decanting and send them up to table. Next to him are the principal table deckers, with £200 a year each; the second table decker, with £150; the third, with £90, and an assistant, with £52—their duties being to superintend the laying out of the Queen's table before dinner is served. The plate pantry is under the care of three women—with salaries of £160, £150, and £120, respectively, beside lodging money and board—a groom, and six assistants. These offices are of great trust and are not overpaid, seeing that at a rough guess the gold and silver plate at Windsor Castle alone is probably worth about £3,000,000, and includes some very precious specimens of art workmanship. The getting in of her Majesty's coal must be an important and arduous task, as no fewer than thirteen persons are employed all the year round on this duty alone.—*Chambers' Journal.*

A Chinese Slave.

Lee Mei Son and Soo Lin, a Chinaman and his wife, living in Portland, Oregon, have a little Chinese girl whom they hold as their slave. The little child has made complaints recently of hard usage which she received from her taskmaster. The authorities visited the den and found her standing in cold water up to her ankles, trembling all over, as if in a fit of ague. Dr. Watkinds made an examination of the child, and found that her hands were swollen to immense proportions from the effects of the chopsticks between which her fingers had been tightly fastened, and kept so for hours at a time for some slight offense. Her legs from the thighs to the feet, and her arms the whole length, presented the appearance of a boiled lobster. This discoloration was caused by repeated applications of a red-hot poker. The medical examiner counted on the legs alone fifteen places where the torture had been applied. He is afraid the legs may have to be amputated, as there is evidence of gangrene. Her unnatual owners were arrested and required to give each $1,000 bonds for their appearance to answer whatever charge of cruelty may be brought against them, to be determined by the issue.—*Chicago Times.*

HOME AND FARM.

—Cotton seed is worth, delivered in Memphis, $9 a ton.

—For selling adulterated milk in New York City last year 350 persons were prosecuted in the Criminal Courts, and the collected fines amounted to $11,657.

—It would be better to feed sour milk to pigs than either to calves or cows. Cows should not have sour food and calves are not benefited by it. When calves are old enough to drink sour milk without injury they are old enough to eat hay.—*N. Y. Times.*

—The evaporating process so extensively employed in the drying of apples and peaches has been applied also to codfish, which can be reduced to a fine dry meal, one pound of which is equal to ten pounds of fresh cod in nutritive properties.—*Health Monthly.*

—An eminent scientist says the innocent-looking feather-duster, by stirring up the the spores of epidemic germs and murderous vibiones, may fill your system and the lungs of your children and neighbors with the deadliest of poisons. The only safe way is to carefully and cautiously wipe the dust from your furniture with a tidy and then burn the tidy.—*Philadelphia News.*

—A correspondent of the *Ohio Farmer* says the Hamburgs will lay more eggs in a year than any other breed in existence, the Cochins and Brahmas make the best mothers, and the Plymouth Rocks are among the best, if not the very best, for market fowls. If you want a fowl for all purposes, take the Plymouth Rocks; if you want to get the most eggs, without regard to size of fowls or eggs, take the Hamburgs, and if you want to get the most meat to sell by the pound take the Brahmas or Cochins.

—In planting small seeds, such as those of lettuce, radish, Drummond phlox, verbena, etc., care must be taken not to cover them too deeply. If pressed into the soil and kept moist, they need not be covered at all. Peter Henderson finds it advantageous, after pressing the seeds into the soil, to cover them with a thin coat of finely pulverized moss, evenly sifted. Larger seeds, such as peas, corn, etc., should be planted more deeply, but not so deep that the air will be excluded, as they need air as well as moisture and warmth to germinate.—*N. Y. Examiner.*

Feeding Growing Animals.

The feeding of growing animals is not reduced to a science, for the reason that while there is a recognized difference between the nutritive process in young and mature animals, there has not been much scientific study of the former, and the estimate of feeding growing animals is largely based upon our knowledge of the nutritive process in mature animals. But the results of feeding in the two cases are of course very different. The most of the food consumed by grown animals is used to keep up the vital processes, and comparative little of it goes to the production of muscles, bones and other tissues. The waste is repaired, and fat is made, but little, if any, additional bone or muscle is contributed. In the young animal, on the other hand, the most of food consumed is converted into additional muscle, bone and other tissues. Careful experiments have been made, however, in feeding, and the results are interesting. Soxhlet, of Vienna, expermented on three calves from eight to thirty days old, and it was found that a calf from two to three weeks old, and weighing a hundred pounds, would consume per day 16.20 pounds of fresh milk (1.93 of dry matter, 0.49 pounds of protein, 0.48 pound of fat, 0.84 pound milk sugar, and 0.13 pound ash), and that the average gain of weight per day was 1.35 pounds. The milk was it was found was almost wholly digested, only about 2.3 per cent of the dry matter appearing in the excrement. In the first place it will be seen that the food produced a much larger increase in weight than it would in a mature animal, a pound of dry matter making almost a pound of weight.

But all that this shows is that the growing animal needs something that is readily digestible, and that having this it will utilize almost all of it. Excepting that in its early life milk is the proper food for the calf, however—which we should know without this experiment—no indication is given as to what shall follow it when the calf becomes older, and no further following of the subject will determine this, except as we proceed upon general principles. For a few days after birth it is very important that the calf have the milk of its own mother, for the milk then contains far more dry matter and relatively less fat and sugar than it does a week later. So far as these differences are concerned, it will not matter after that time whether the calf is fed upon the milk of its mother or upon some other milk. Milk contains all that the animal system needs, as we all know from general experience. There is no part of the system that it will not supply; and whatever substitute is made for milk it must as nearly approach to it in composition as possible. Nature must be imitated. It should be especially of easy digestibility, and it should be fed while warm.

When weaning time comes, the change from milk feeding to other feed should be made in such a way as to cause no falling off in condition, but rather so that there shall be a constant growth and increase of weight. It should, therefore, be gradual, and the substitutes should be something that the animal will relish, should be digestible and nourishing. Crushed and boiled flaxseed is a good thing for this purpose. In a short time oil cake, oats, barley, and malt sprouts may be fed, and the animal can have fine, tender hay, that not only being good for it, but feeding it will accustom it to eat the coarse fodders. If the calves can be put upon pasture, weaning will accomplish itself, but when this is impossible, the course above prescribed will be followed, and in about ten weeks the weaning will be complete.

It must be remembered in weaning, or rather after weaning, that the stomach of the young animal can not at first hold and digest large quantities of coarse fodder. Its food must be concentated, therefore, containing large nutritive qualities in a small space.—*Western Rural.*

Religious.

"HE LEADETH ME."

PSALM 23.

In "pastures green?" Not always; sometime He
Who knoweth best in kindness leadeth me
In weary ways, where heavy shadows be.

Out of the sunshine, warm and soft and bright,
Out of the sunshine into darkest night,
I oft would faint with sorrow and affright

Only for this: I know He holds my hand;
So, whether led in green or desert land,
I trust, although I may not understand.

Beside "still waters?" No, not always so;
Ofttimes the heavy tempests round me blow,
And o'er my soul the waves and billows go;

But when the storm beats loudest, and I cry
Aloud for help, the Master standeth by,
And whispers to my soul: "Lo, it is I!"

Above the tempest wild I hear Him say:
"Beyond the darkness lies the perfect day;
In every path of thine I lead the way."

So whether on the hill-tops high and fair
I dwell, or in the sunless valleys, where
The shadows lie; what matter? He is there.

And more than this; where'er the pathway lead
He gives to me no helpless broken reed,
But His own hand, sufficient for my need.

So where He leads me, I can safely go;
And in the blest hereafter I shall know
Why in His wisdom He hath led me so.
—*H. H. Barry, in Interior.*

THE EVER-PRESENT GOD.

The Lord is everywhere in the universe. "Whither shall I go from Thy Spirit, or whither shall I flee from Thy presence. If I ascend up into Heaven, Thou art there; if I make my bed in hell, behold Thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there shall Thy hand lead me, and Thy right hand shall hold me." God is "not far from every one of us." He is equally present with all men, at all times and in all places. We can no more escape from this everywhere Presence than we can escape from space. "Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? Do not I fill Heaven and earth? saith the Lord."

Though God is present with all, all do not realize the fact. God is a spirit, and His presence must be spiritually discerned. He manifests Himself within by the spirit, and not from without through the senses. A spiritual frame, an ear attent to the speech of God, a heart open to receive Him, alone enable us to realize His presence. Most men are so preoccupied with temporal and temporary concerns that they have no apprehension of spiritual realities. God is always near to them, as near as He is to the saintliest soul. He cares for them, is striving with them by His Spirit, yet they do not perceive Him; "He is not in all their thoughts." Yet we may be conscious of God's abiding personal companionship. "If any man love me, he will keep my words, and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." An innumerable host of believers have verified this promise, and have been sustained in trial, in persecution and death by the consciousness of an ever-present God. God does speak to His people, and make His presence felt.

The manifested presence of God proves His love and care. His omnipresence is a proof and pledge of His universal and special providence. It is inconceivable that the everywhere-present God who knows all things, knows our condition, thoughts, wants and woes, is indifferent to our welfare, and can or will do nothing for us. The notion that God is an impersonal, indifferent, helpless spectator of human affairs is as irrational as it is unscriptural. If there is an omnipresent, allwise, omnipotent and beneficent God, He has the power and the will to care for every one of His children. He is over all and in all. "In Him we live and move and have our being." There is not a breath, an inspiration, an aspiration, a moment, a fact, without God. He is our ever-present Father, and that is a sufficient proof of His care. The minutest circumstance that concerns the welfare of one of His children commands His attention. He numbers the hairs of our head, among the most minute and insignificant things respecting us. He watches the fall of the sparrow. "Fear not; ye are of more value than many sparrows."

If a God of love is ever and everywhere present, "why is there so much misery in the world?" Men have always made the existence and prevalence of evil an argument against the existence and goodness of God, but they reason superficially and falsely. Human suffering is not the result of anything that God has done. It is the result of man's wrong-doing. It exists notwithstanding all that Infinite Goodness can do to prevent it, without the sacrifice of greater good than could be secured by its prevention. Men who charge God with the miseries they see and suffer miss the profit they might gain through suffering and the Divine support they might have in the midst of it. Is it not an evidence of infinite goodness that, when men have overwhelmed themselves in misery by sinning against God, He comes to them to mitigate their miseries and makes the evils they have brought upon themselves to work together for their good? To the unrebellious and devout sufferer He says: "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." "Be not dismayed, for I am thy God and I will help thee. When thou passest through the waters I will be with thee." The sufferings which God could not prevent, He not only renders tolerable by giving grace and strength to bear them, but also renders profitable by making them to yield the peaceable fruits and eternal rewards of righteousness. He sustains the trusting soul under his afflictions and purifies him by means of them. All that we usually wish is relief. God says: "No, the profit is more than the relief. The afflictions which are so grievous to you now shall work for you a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."

No man has such strength for work, such victory in conflict, such consolation in sorrow, as he who is conscious that God is always near, and "lives as seeing Him who is invisible." In the darkest hours of life he has a light and support within that cheers and bears him up. "Even in the hour of death he considers the pains of his dissolution to be nothing more than the breaking down of the only partition which stands between him and the full sight of that Being who is always present with him, and is about to manifest Himself to him in fullness of joy." Such a human victor says with the Psalmist: "Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me." Poor, indeed, is he who is without God and hope in the world. Like a ship in mid-ocean without mast or rudder, he is adrift. God is the cherishing Father of all who call upon Him. —*N. W. Christian Advocate.*

Fill Your Sphere.

The late Dr. Bushnell wrote few better sermons than that in which he made his eloquent argument to show that every human life is after a plan of God. And yet the instances are rare in which men are fully satistied with the sphere in which Providence has placed them. In the great majority of cases there is a restless anxiety for advancement, ambitious yearning for positions demanding more conspicuous and dignified service.

Yielding to this temptation, many grow weary of life's humbler duties, and become neglectful of their callings. To check and correct this tendency nothing is more important than an intelligent recognition of the fact that God requires us to be faithful in the sphere in which He has placed us. The sphere may be obscure, but, if its duties are properly discharged, God will not be unfaithful to forget our "works of faith and labors of love." He will approve and reward them up to the full measure of our fidelity. Carefulness and cheerfulness in the performance of our everyday duties is the truest test of Christian character, and the honest purpose which keeps a man faithful in little matters seldom fails to prove itself strong enough to make him vigilant in the discharge of higher responsibilities.

The lesson that needs to be constantly impressed on man is that loyalty to duty and to Christ does not depend on conspicuous achievements. While often exhibited in connection with great deeds, it is much *oftener* associated with the doing of humble offices. Our life may be unostentatious, may seem monotonous. But persevere as a Christian in the family, be faithful as a servant of God in your place of business, true and conscientious in your duties as a neighbor and a citizen, and a member of Christ's church, and you shall in no wise lose your reward.

Place or position does not determine our real standing either with God or men. This depends on faithfulness to duty. Paul in chains was greater than Felix in office; because the Apostle was true, while the Governor was false. And to show us how our Lord judged in this matter, He dignified lowly positions and humble offices by making Himself, on more than one occasion, a servant of His disciples. Recognizing Him as our great example, it does not become us to be troubled about the sphere in which God has placed us, but rather endeavor to make the most of our talents and opportunities, illustrating our fidelity in every duty and in every department of religious effort. Such a view will not repress our aspirations, but will inspire and direct them into legitimate channels, teaching us that through fidelity in humble duties, whatever they may be, we are to qualify ourselves for wider service and win our way to higher honors.—*Baptist Weekly.*

Selfishness.

A fundamental sin of the human race is selfishness. It affects all classes and conditions in all ages of the world. It is generic, and not tribal, universal rather than local. It looks up with envious eye to those above it, and seeks to pull them down that it may rise. It is jealous of rivals and contemptuous to inferiors. It is a cardinal defect in Christian character, and spreads the mildew of eternal death over the brightest intellectual endowments. It antagonizes the precepts and practice of the Divine Master by corrupting the life-blood of all benevolence. It dries up the fountains of love and mercy, and converts the fruitful fields of kindness into arid wastes of cruel neglect. It fosters pride and arrogance, and turns humility and peace like beggars from the human heart. It is always aspiring for place and position, wealth and honor; and grieves when these are bestowed upon unseeking worth.

The law of life points downward, and bends with pitying look over those below, and with helping hand seeks to lift them up to a higher level. Forgetful of self, in blessing others, it becomes doubly blessed; in relieving others' woes it secures the inestimable boon of peace. In looking down into human misery, it beholds the gates of Paradise. Here is the paradox of human wisdom. Self, by climbing higher over others, sinks lower and lower; humility, by going down the steeps of wretchedness, rises to all the heights of ineffable bliss.—*N. W. Christian Advocate.*

—Buffalo gnats were recently destroying large numbers of cattle and horses in Craighead and Chicot Counties, Arkansas. In fact planters in all the section of country embraced in the overflowed districts complain of the ravages of these pests. The gnats are as large as an ordinary house-fly. It is said they have never before been so numerous or destructive. In many localities farming was carried on by moonlight, as the insects do not trouble stock to any extent after nightfall. Many planters begin work just at twilight and continue plowing and other work throughout the night.

—Mrs. Margaret Lynch, the widow of millionaire Lynch, of San Francisco, ordered an $18,000 monument for the grave of her husband. The contract, which was made in April, 1878, provided that the monument should be completed within four months, or that if the contractor failed to finish it by that time he should forfeit $10 for each day. The tomb was not completed until August, 1881, and a San Francisco court has recently decreed that Mrs. Lynch is entitled to $11,800 only.—*Chicago Journal.*

—A statistical fiend estimates that it takes 100,000 elephants yearly to supply the ivory of the world. If the game of billiards were to be abolished, about 25,000 elephants would supply the demand, and about 500,000 married men in this country would be home earlier in the evenings.